

TECHNICAL NOTES

February 12, 2003

MO-1 Technical Note Number 31 (Revised)

Re: Classification - Isotic and Mixed Family Mineralogy

This technical note is applicable to soils in MLRA's 3, 6, 9, 43.

After review of laboratory data on forested soils in the MLRA's, it appears there is no reasonable predictability for mixed vs. isotic mineralogy class in soils with volcanic glass influence. Based on this review and in the concurrence with the Bozeman MO, the following guide for classification of Andic and Vitrandic subgroups will be followed.

1. If the official series type location has laboratory data for 15 bar water and NaF, the data will be used for series classification.
2. If data is not available, the series will be classified as isotic if it is considered forested and/or it has an O horizon described. If the soil is not forested, it will be classified as mixed.
3. If your taxonomic unit description is not the official series type location and you have laboratory data from the representative pedon that contradicts the guide in item 2, consider the pedon a taxadjunct to the series.

We realize this is a very broad and very general guide. In the future, additional analysis maybe available to make "better" predictions, but until that time we do not want to proliferate new series based on classification alone without interpretive need or consistent predictability in the field.